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University of Northern Iowa Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes, February 11, 1991

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**FACULTY SENATE
FEBRUARY 11, 1991
1435**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Comments from Provost Marlin.
2. Comments from Chairperson Longnecker.

CONSULTATIVE SESSION

3. Consultative Session with the General Education Committee regarding implementation in light of possible restricted funding.

The Faculty Senate was called to order at 3:30 p.m., in the Board Room of Gilchrist Hall, by Chairperson Longnecker.

Present: Leander Brown, Phyllis Conklin, David Crownfield, David Duncan, Reginald Green, Randall Krieg, John Longnecker, Barbara Lounsberry, Charles Quirk, Ernest Raiklin, Nick Tieg, Patrick Wilkinson, Marc Yoder, ex officio

Alternates: Mary Bozik/Bill Henderson, Marvin Heller/Roger Kueter

Absent: Robert Decker, Erwin Richter, Ron Roberts

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Comments from Provost Marlin.

The Provost indicated the State's budget picture has not improved. It is likely that UNI will have to revert almost \$890,000. She stressed the problem with reversion is that this mount will be taken out of our base for next year and we will have to work hard to get restored to our previous base appropriation. She pointed out capital appropriation has been severely cut with the Library addition being in serious trouble.

Senator Lounsberry inquired if the Legislature is trying to reappropriate the reverted money for next year. Provost Marlin stated this will be a rough session and it is hard to predict the results.

Senator Crownfield inquired if there has been any work in the background relative to raising revenues. The Provost responded there is now insufficient legislative support for increasing taxes.

Senator Quirk inquired if there was any information concerning proposed duplication studies supposedly supported by the Governor. The Provost responded she has not heard any information to this effect.

The Chair asked if this reversion affects hirings. The Provost responded that we have the money to support fund searches and new line positions. She stated, however, if the \$890,000 is not replaced to UNI, we may have a difficult time next year.

The Provost regretfully announced that Dr. Basheer Nijim died on the morning of February 11, 1991.

2. Comments from Chairperson Longnecker.

The Chair indicated he had met at the Board Office last week on student outcomes assessment with Dr. Barak and Executive Secretary Richey.

Student Outcomes Assessment Chairperson Professor Gene Lutz indicated all three institutions are trying to meet with Mr. Richey to clarify as to what is ahead with outcome proposals. He pointed out we are clearly mandated to do so, but the outcome is ours to shape. The deadline for pilot programs is Spring, 1992, with full implementation with the Fall, 1992, semester. He stated the first year may be somewhat of a trial with a following continual process of refinement. He stated the assessment is focused on departments and majors but Executive Secretary Richey also wants the General Education Programs to be part of the process. Professor Lutz stated the student outcomes assessments are viewed by the Board as part of Strategic Planning.

Senator Quirk inquired if the instruments are to be universal, and if the instruments apply to graduate education. Professor Lutz responded the instruments are to be chosen by the institutions and they apply only to undergraduate education. He stated the Committee will try to create a model and allow departments to modify to fit their particular needs.

Senator Bozik inquired as to the end product. Professor Lutz stated the end product should be a policy statement allowing for plans and outcomes assessments for the academic departments.

Senator Bozik inquired about future reporting requirements. Professor Lutz stated there is currently no interest in providing tabulated results; however, some summary data will need to be presented to the Board.

Senator Crownfield stated the Strategic Planning Committee has not addressed this issue as of yet. It is hoped this will be incorporated as a component of the Program review process and therefore will reduce the need to report detailed assessment data.

The Chair indicated the University policy on assessment will be coming to the Faculty Senate approximately mid-April.

CONSULTATIVE SESSION

3. Consultative Session with the General Education Committee regarding implementation in light of possible restricted funding.

Senator Quirk inquired if there is any possibility of holding a meeting of all appropriate bodies to consider this topic. Provost Marlin stated this is possible if the Senate would deem this to be helpful. She stated she thought one more year of adequate funding would alleviate the staffing issues. The current searches and authorized new General Education positions will place us in fairly good shape with the possible exception of the writing and oral communications components. She stated, however, that the English Department is preparing some innovative recommendations to address its particular requirements.

Assistant Vice President Strathe indicated the deans are very supportive of General Education and are not discussing any cuts in program offerings. Because of the increased enrollment, she stated we will not make as much progress away from the use of adjunct instructors as we would have desired.

Provost Marlin suggested we should remember we have made tremendous progress over the last two years toward the implementation of this new General Education Program.

Senator Lounsberry inquired if the oral communications component will begin this fall. Provost Marlin responded in the affirmative.

Senator Crownfield stated there have been rumors surfacing relative to proposals from the administration to curtail parts of the Program relative to demand. He stated this included course substitutions or adopting a series of courses to meet a specific requirement. He stated this is truly only a rumor and that the response of the administration is behind full implementation of the General Education Program.

Provost Marlin stated she has worked and allocated positions to allow for full implementation; the administration is completely supportive of full implementation of the General Education Program.

Senator Quirk inquired as to when we may have reliable projected new student enrollment data for the Fall, 1991, semester. Assistant Vice President Strathe

responded, stating hopefully we will have reliable predictive data in approximately mid-March.

Senator Quirk asked when will we get to the point of regular faculty members teaching the General Education Program.

Provost Marlin stated the percentage of adjunct instructors teaching at the University has stayed basically the same over the past several years.

Senator Crownfield projected there are three phases in the process of implementation of the General Education Program.

1. To get to capacity by any tolerable means possible, including the use of adjunct instructors.
2. Absorbing the backlog so that courses designed to be offered at the freshman level will be available at that level.
3. The replacement of adjunct instructors with regular line positions. He stated he is most fearful of the reality of phase 3.

Provost Marlin stated that needs for additional resources for General Education will continue to be a priority, but it cannot be the only priority given the many other critical needs of the institution.

General Education Committee Chairperson Lutz inquired if the Senate had a direction they wished the Committee to take. Senator Duncan imagined the Committee is to keep a close watch on enrollment and staffing and if the Committee sees significant problems, to report same to the Faculty Senate. He stated he did not envision the Committee taking an active role to solve such problems. Senator Heller inquired of the Committee if they had figured out the correct student body size which would accommodate our current capabilities. Chairperson Lutz responded in the negative. Senator Quirk pointed out in the study on part-time, temporary faculty, it was estimated the institution is well equipped to handle a student population of 10,000.

Senator Conklin stated her concern that we will do everything to provide for General Education offerings at the detriment of major coursework offerings.

Senator Brown suggested while we may have problem areas, it is not a time to panic. He suggested the Senate watch and monitor the situation. He pointed out in reference to Senator Crownfield's three phases, that this is the same philosophy he was following in discussing the addition of new programs or centers.

Senator Quirk suggested when we see good temporary faculty being let go, less writing being required in classes, and larger class sizes, we may be quickly approaching a crisis situation.

The Chair indicated there has been strong support for General Education if the Program is done as envisioned. He charged the General Education Committee with reporting to the Senate when they envision things are occurring that do not reflect what the Faculty passed with the General Education Program.

Professor Lutz stated the Committee will make such comparisons with an eye toward identifying problem areas and identifying what needs to be changed.

Senator Crownfield stated his concern that individual problems are not being addressed on a common approach to implementation to the General Education Program. He suggested if problems are being fragmented into individual department concerns, that the role of the Senate is to address the entire matter from an all-University perspective.

Senator Quirk inquired about the implementation of the foreign area studies component. Assistant Vice President Strathe indicated while we may have a backlog problem, significant progress has been made over the last year.

Professor Sandstrom, as Chair of the Humanities staff, stated his concerns relative to budgetary questions which force late allocations of resources and resultantly late forays into the job market. He suggested such a continuing procedure may result in a diminution of quality instructors in the General Education Program. He stated he is concerned with both qualitative and quantitative matters.

Senator Lounsberry inquired if the \$890,000 reversion will have an impact on hiring new staff positions for General Education. Assistant Vice President Strathe said the money has not been taken from approved faculty lines.

Senator Quirk inquired as to how department heads should develop schedules of classes for the Fall semester if they are awaiting student enrollment figures and the completion of searches for new faculty. Assistant Vice President Strathe stated we will need to staff at levels commensurate with enrollment at the start of the Fall, 1990, semester. She stated if an increase in enrollment occurs we will have to make adjustments during the Summer of 1991.

Professor and Head John Johnson inquired if we are talking about creating sections without the assignment of staff. Assistant Vice President Strathe responded in the affirmative, stating we will probably have to do so to create a balance across the schedule.

Senator Crownfield inquired about the staffing for the Capstone course. Assistant Vice President Strathe, replying for Dean Intemann, stated we are serving the current demand and with additional hires we will be able to meet the future demand for this course.

The Chair reminded the Senate they need to be cognizant of actions taken to approve new centers or programs relative to the priority of funding and staff.

Senator Crownfield stated the Senate may have a unique role in over-viewing the entire implementation of General Education and other curricular programs. He stated the Senate is in a unique position to establish priorities and to consider the restructuring of governance systems to handle our implementation needs.

Senator Quirk inquired as to what happens if the Faculty Senate adopts a proposal but the actual reality of implementation is delayed such as in the case of the report on part-time, temporary faculty. He queried as to how long do we wait?

Senator Crownfield stated this brings up the question of total coordination of the various actions previously taken.

The Chair expressed the appreciation of the Faculty Senate to the General Education Committee for their input at this meeting.

Crownfield moved, Yoder seconded to rise from the committee as a whole and to adjourn. Motion passed.

The Senate adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip L. Patton
Secretary

These minutes shall stand approved as published unless corrections or protests are filed with the Secretary of the Senate within two weeks of this date, February 15, 1991.